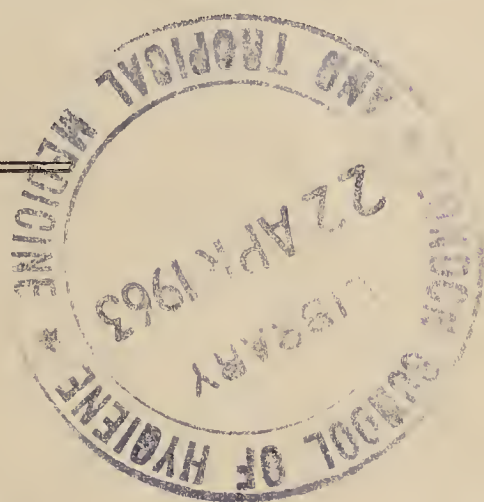


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UCKFIELD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR
1955

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEACON ROAD, CROWBOROUGH, Sussex.





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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEACON ROAD, CROWBOROUGH, Sussex.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Chairman :

REAR ADMIRAL R. B. DARKE, C.B., D.S.O.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN PETRIE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

(Medical Officer of Health, East Grinstead U.D.C.)

(School Medical Officer, East Sussex County Council)

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

* A. J. WILLIAMS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector :

* R. A. WILLIAMS, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

* W. L. ROBERTS, Cert. S.I.B.

* R. H. STREET, Cert. S.I.B.

Rodent Operators :

T. PARKER.

H. P. GOULD.

Clerks :

G. A. FOX, D.P.A.

MISS H. E. CAFFYN.

Immunisation and Vaccination Clerk (East Sussex County Council)

G. HOPWOOD. D.C.M.

* Certificated Inspector of Meat and other Food.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1955 prepared on the lines indicated in Ministry of Health circular 17/55.

Housing.

In 1954 the Minister of Housing and Local Government instructed councils to prepare slum clearance schemes and altered the subsidy for new council houses so that families living in unfit dwellings should receive precedence in the allocation of council tenancies. Furthermore under the provisions of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, local authorities were required to submit to the Minister future proposals for slum clearance.

There are more than 13,000 inhabited dwellings within the district and of these over 8,000 are under £20 rateable value (old valuation list). This class of property was inspected in the Rural Housing Survey completed in 1948 and it was decided to make this group the basis of the Council's proposals to the Minister. While no new survey has been made an estimate of the number of unfit properties was possible as the classification of the dwellings has been amended when fresh information was revealed by random inspections and, furthermore, the Minister only required broad estimates which could be adjusted during the course of future surveys.

It was decided that 400 houses in the next ten years should be considered as an estimate of the number of properties to be dealt with under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 (i.e. for demolition or the acceptance, from the owner, of an undertaking not to relet a property until it is made fit for habitation).

In addition to work of repair and demolition increased interest has been shown in Improvement Grants for existing houses and the following figures give a comparison with applications received in previous years :—

YEAR	APPLICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPROVED
1950/53	9 properties
1954	45 „
1955	82 „

To implement the proposed programme and prevent the condition of existing unfit houses becoming aggravated, more staff was necessary and an additional District Sanitary Inspector was appointed who took up his duties early in 1956.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Under the provision of this Act private landlords are permitted to raise controlled rents where houses are in a good state of repair. A tenant, however, who does not think that the state of the house warrants an increased rent may apply for a certificate of disrepair to restrain the landlord from applying the increase. During 1955 eight applications were approved for certificates of disrepair and seven certificates revoked after landlords had made the premises fit. So far as this district is concerned the provisions in the Act for certificates of disrepair have not been widely used.

Waiting List for Council Houses.

The Housing Manager has submitted the following analysis and comments on the state of the waiting list for council houses.

Number of applicants on the Council's waiting list at the 31st March.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
	808	843
Analysis of the waiting list at 31st March, 1956 :		
Living in lodgings or sharing with relatives	340	families
Occupying houses with an insufficient number of bedrooms ...	45	„
Occupying houses condemned as unfit	15	„
Occupying service cottages and either under notice to quit or wish to move to a free cottage in order to change their occupation or to retire	110	„
Occupying houses required by the owner for his own use, for a farm worker, or for sale	70	„
Occupying houses which are old and have no conveniences but are not condemned	92	„
Occupying houses and flats at a high rent or too large for their needs	72	„
Living in other districts and wishing to return to the Uckfield area where either the husband or the wife lived previously	35	„
Living in other districts but work in the Uckfield area ...	28	„
Total	<u>807</u>	„

Although the total number of applications remains about the same the number of urgent cases on the waiting list for the smaller villages is not so great. The waiting lists for Uckfield and Crowborough, however, are still long and include a large number of families in urgent need of alternative accommodation.

Although the number of new houses available for the waiting list was reduced in 1955/56 there has been an increase in the number of vacancies in existing houses ; a total of 54 houses were available for reletting from the waiting list. A few of the vacancies were due to the tenants building their own houses but the majority found other accommodation in another district, or migrated to the Dominions.

The majority of privately owned houses which became vacant in the district were for sale and only a few were available for reletting. Owing to the high cost of building and maintenance, the majority of applicants are not in a position to consider buying a house and therefore have to rely upon the Council for rented accommodation or apply for service cottages tied to their work.

Milk Supplies.

One hundred and sixteen samples of raw milk were taken during the year and of these five were found to be affected with brucella abortus and one with tubercle bacilli ; producers supplies in respect of the former unsatisfactory samples were diverted to a pasteurising establishment for heat treatment. In the case of the sample affected by tubercle bacilli investigation was made by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and the infected cow was subsequently removed from the herd.

National Assistance Acts.

Section 47.

Two elderly persons (husband and wife) in need of care and attention were taken to St. Leonards House and Hospital, East Grinstead, and retained in the institution under an order made by the court. The woman has since died and the man continues to stay in the home voluntarily.

Section 50.

One burial of a destitute person was arranged by the Council at a cost of £22 ; the deceased left no estate.

Sewerage and Sewage purification.

During 1955 the following work was completed for the Council.

Buxted Parish.

To meet additional and future demands made upon the plant by building development, two additional sludge drying beds were constructed at the White Hart works.

Frant Parish.

Upon the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health and in conjunction with the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells, a modern works was constructed at Benhall Mill Road.

Properties from the Rural District area and the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells drain to these works.

Wadhurst Parish.

An extension of the foul sewer consisting of the laying of 322 yards of 4in. glazed pipes was undertaken at Durgates to serve existing and future development.

Withyham Parish.

Two additional sludge drying beds were constructed at the St. John's works, to meet the additional demands made upon the plant by recent development.

I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PETRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL TABLES

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TABLE I.

VITAL AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

Area of the District	112,096 acres
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	44,000
Density of Population per acre	...	...	...	...	...	0.39
Number of inhabited dwellings (at 31/3/56)	...	...	...	...	...	13,660
*Rateable Value	{ (at 31/3/56) £382,677					
	{ (at 1/4/56) £589,349					
Sum represented by the penny rate (at 31/3/56)...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,504

* Valuation lists revised with effect from 1/4/56.

Births and Deaths.

Birth Rate (crude)	11.97	} Per 1,000 Population
„ „ (modified)	...	...	...	...	14.48
„ „ (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	15.00
Death Rate (crude)	...	...	...	...	12.75
„ „ (modified)	...	...	...	...	9.30
„ „ (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	11.70
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	32.00

Live Births.

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	255	245	500
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	14	13	27
Total live births	...	...	...	...	...	269	258	527

Infant Deaths and Still Births.

Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	8	8	16
„ „ 4 weeks „ „	...	...	...	...	6	7	13
Still Births	...	...	...	...	4	3	7

Causes of Death.

ses of Death.						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Tuberculosis (other) ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	...	10	4	14
Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus ...	...	...	...	...	15	4	19
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	...	...	...	—	11	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	...	...	...	...	33	25	58
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2

TABLE I (continued)

							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	65	99
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	33	72
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	11	14
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	63	95
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	23	34
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	16
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	6	18
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	23	45
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	13	16
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>250</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>561</u>

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1940-1955.

TABLE II.

Year	Estimated Population	Number of Births.						Crude Birth Rate	Number of Deaths			Crude Death Rate	Infants' Deaths			Infant Death Rate	Natural Increase of Births over Deaths
		Legitimate			Illegitimate				M.	F.	Total		M.	F.	Total		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total										
1940	44,350	233	220	453	18	8	26	10.80	255	300	555	12.51	8	9	17	35.49	76
1941	43,760	241	242	483	35	32	67	12.57	273	317	590	13.48	13	8	21	38.18	40
1942	40,750	301	274	575	36	33	69	15.80	244	294	538	13.20	17	12	29	45.03	106
1943	39,360	296	263	559	47	53	100	16.74	255	319	574	14.58	14	8	22	33.38	85
1944	37,200	309	269	578	74	62	136	19.19	247	278	525	14.11	13	8	21	29.41	189
1945	36,830	230	216	446	67	59	126	15.53	255	277	532	14.44	12	7	19	33.21	40
1946	39,270	345	314	659	33	35	68	18.51	245	264	509	12.96	13	6	19	26.13	218
1947	40,190	327	318	645	28	21	49	17.27	263	282	545	13.56	19	9	28	40.35	149
1948	40,900	325	286	611	14	15	29	15.65	247	255	502	12.27	7	3	10	15.63	138
1949	41,370	281	264	545	14	14	28	13.85	252	273	525	12.69	8	8	16	27.92	48
1950	42,230	271	274	545	17	13	30	13.61	260	279	539	12.76	5	8	13	22.60	36
1951	43,750	282	272	554	13	9	22	13.16	264	306	570	13.02	5	11	16	27.60	6
1952	43,260	274	245	519	16	10	26	12.59	296	306	602	13.91	9	8	17	31.19	—
1953	43,600	241	260	501	12	12	24	12.05	245	257	502	11.51	7	5	12	22.86	23
1954	43,940	267	262	529	16	10	26	12.63	256	300	556	12.65	4	5	9	16.21	—
1955	44,000	255	245	500	14	13	27	11.97	250	311	561	12.75	8	8	16	32.00	—

POPULATION FIGURES, 1945-1955. Estimated

PARISH	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
BUXTED	1,837	1,951	2,008	2,041	2,064	2,066	2,379	2,435	2,435	2,437	2,454
CROWBOROUGH	5,856	6,244	6,389	6,502	6,577	6,585	7,375	7,423	7,588	7,667	7,638
DANEHILL	1,108	1,183	1,208	1,230	1,244	1,245	1,290	1,282	1,282	1,268	1,262
FLETCHING	974	1,039	1,062	1,082	1,094	1,095	1,062	1,051	1,004	992	1,011
FOREST ROW	2,871	3,060	3,133	3,188	3,225	3,231	3,356	3,340	3,267	3,330	3,384
FRAMFIELD	1,602	1,709	1,748	1,778	1,799	1,801	1,942	1,946	1,934	1,952	1,913
FRANT	1,541	1,644	1,682	1,711	1,731	1,733	1,515	1,520	1,536	1,525	1,497
HADLOW DOWN	876	934	956	973	984	985	860	829	811	828	843
HARTFIELD	1,947	2,076	2,124	2,161	2,186	2,188	2,128	2,131	2,077	2,095	2,060
ISFIELD	455	485	497	505	511	512	556	545	554	551	560
LITTLE HORSTED	224	239	246	250	253	254	225	218	214	222	213
MARESFIELD	2,216	2,366	2,419	2,463	2,491	2,495	2,853	2,890	2,920	2,965	2,982
MAYFIELD	2,958	3,155	3,227	3,285	3,323	3,327	3,488	3,495	3,544	3,604	3,606
ROTHERFIELD	2,710	2,889	2,957	3,010	3,044	3,047	2,992	2,990	2,930	2,975	2,933
UCKFIELD	3,415	3,642	3,726	3,793	3,836	3,840	3,862	3,918	4,302	4,252	4,341
WADHURST	3,623	3,863	3,953	4,022	4,069	4,074	4,178	4,165	4,143	4,191	4,180
WITHYHAM	2,617	2,791	2,855	2,906	2,939	2,942	3,071	3,082	3,059	3,086	3,123
† TOTALS	36,830	39,270	40,190	40,900	41,370	42,230	*43,132	43,260	43,600	43,940	44,000

† Totals, except 1951, are annual estimates of population supplied by the Registrar General. * CENSUS 1951.

Population of each parish calculated as follows :—

$$\frac{\text{Registrar General's estimate of population for the District}}{\text{Number of occupied dwellings in the District}} \times \text{Number of occupied dwellings in each parish.}$$

NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

Disease		Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25 years and over	Age not known	Total	Admitted to hospital
SCARLET FEVER	...	...	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	5	1
WHOOPING COUGH	...	3	8	13	46	3	—	1	—	74	—
POLIOMYELITIS—PARALYTIC	...	—	—	—	3	2	—	3	1	9	9
POLIOMYELITIS—NON-PARALYTIC	...	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	4	3
MEASLES	...	4	54	71	217	15	9	9	8	387	—
		Under 5 years	5—14 years	15—44 years	45—64 years	65 and over	—	—	—	—	
PNEUMONIA	...	4	3	8	4	5	—	—	2	26	5
DYSENTERY	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
ERYSIPELAS	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
*FOOD POISONING	...	1	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	7	1
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	...	...	ALL AGES							13	3
MALARIA	...	...	”	”	”	”	”	”	”	1	—

* Analysis of 7 Food Poisoning Notifications.
1 outbreak involving 2 persons. Causitive agent. None found.
1 ” ” 4 ” ” Cl. Welch.
1 individual case ” ” Salmonella Thompson.

TABLE IV.

TABLE V.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Distribution of diseases in the parishes, 1955

PARISH	DISEASE												
	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Poliomyelitis (Non-Para.)	Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Meningococcal infection	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Malaria	TOTALS
BUXTED ...	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
CROWBOROUGH ...	—	10	—	—	88	7	1	—	1	4	6	—	117
DANEHILL ...	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
FLETCHING ...	2	5	—	—	6	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	19
FOREST ROW ...	—	32	1	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59
FRAMFIELD ...	—	—	—	—	30	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	32
FRANT ...	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
HADLOW DOWN ...	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
HARTFIELD ...	—	2	1	—	37	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	42
ISFIELD ...	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	21
LITTLE HORSTED ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
MARESFIELD ...	2	16	1	—	33	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	54
MAYFIELD ...	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
ROTHERFIELD ...	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
UCKFIELD ...	—	8	2	1	90	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	105
WADHURST ...	1	—	1	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
WITHYHAM ...	—	1	—	1	29	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	35
TOTALS ...	5	74	9	4	387	26	1	1	2	7	13	1	530

TABLE VI.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1955.

AGE GROUPS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
25 —	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 —	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 —	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 —	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	8	1	3	2	2	—	—

TABLE VII.

TABLE SHOWING TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1938-1955.

YEAR.	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total. (All Types)	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total (All Types)
	M	F	M	F	M & F	M	F	M	F	M & F
1938	8	10	8	7	33	4	6	2	1	13
1939	11	7	3	5	26	10	7	1	1	19
1940	13	15	9	2	39	4	1	4	4	13
1941	24	16	5	7	52	11	8	1	1	21
1942	12	16	10	3	41	3	5	6	—	14
1943	20	12	8	6	46	4	4	—	2	10
1944	10	16	2	5	33	8	4	2	—	14
1945	14	20	1	4	39	12	9	—	1	22
1946	14	11	15	4	44	3	4	1	—	8
1947	10	10	5	5	30	7	7	3	1	18
1948	19	8	2	5	34	9	5	—	—	14
1949	21	15	4	6	46	3	4	—	—	7
1950	20	19	6	9	54	2	—	1	—	3
1951	22	19	3	6	50	4	4	1	—	9
1952	25	21	5	4	55	5	3	2	—	10
1953	27	17	—	2	46	2	1	—	1	4
1954	27	18	2	3	50	2	—	—	—	2
1955	5	8	1	3	17	2	2	—	—	4

TABLE VIII.
VACCINATION AND DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination.

The following vaccinations or re-vaccinations were carried out at clinics or reported by medical practitioners during the year.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Vaccinations</i>	<i>Re-vaccinations</i>
Under 1 year ...	413	—
1 year	18	1
2-4 years ...	16	6
5-14	18	45
15 years and over	14	197
Total ...	479	249

Diphtheria Immunisation.

(a) The following table shows the number of children immunised during 1955, and in addition six hundred and thirty-five children were given boosting doses on entering school or attaining the age of ten.

<i>Age</i>	1955	1954
Under 1 year ...	394	385
1-4 years ...	143	175
5-14 years ...	53	5
Totals ...	590	565

(b) The following tables show the position with regard to Diphtheria Immunisation at 31st December, 1955.

<i>0-15 years of age</i>					
Number on roll	...	...	...	...	8,889
Number immunised	...	...	...	...	8,239
Percentage immunised	...	...	...	...	92%

<i>0-5 years of age</i>					
Number on roll	...	...	...	...	2,662
Number immunised	...	...	...	...	2,064
Percentage immunised	...	...	...	...	77%

TABLE VIII (continued)

(c) Five to fourteen years of age attending Elementary School :—

School	No. on Register	Number Immunised	Percentages Immunised	
			Dec., 1955	Dec., 1954
Blackham	32	32	100	100
Danehill	158	158	100	100
Fletching	56	56	100	100
Framfield	59	59	100	100
Frant	61	61	100	100
Hammerwood	27	27	100	100
Hérons Ghyll R.C.	43	43	100	100
High Hurstwood	43	43	100	100
Isfield	41	41	100	100
Little Horsted	32	32	100	100
Maresfield	104	104	100	98.9
Mark Cross	42	42	100	100
Nutley	114	114	100	100
Uckfield R.C.	181	181	100	100
Wadhurst R.C.	27	27	100	100
Withyham	37	37	100	100
Hartfield	141	140	99.2	100
Wadhurst V.P.	272	270	99.2	99.4
Uckfield Parochial	293	290	98.9	100
Groombridge	173	171	98.8	99.3
Forest Row	271	267	98.5	100
Sir Henry Fermor	211	208	98.5	98.3
Five Ashes	52	51	98.0	100
Jarvis Brook	50	49	98.0	100
Hadlow Down	41	40	97.5	100
Eridge	75	73	97.3	97.3
Buxted	105	102	97.1	99.2
St. John's	65	63	96.9	99.0
Whitehill C.P.	299	290	96.9	97.9
Mayfield	192	186	96.8	97.8
Rotherfield	122	118	96.7	99.1
Blackboys	60	58	96.6	95.7
Fairwarp	30	29	96.6	100
	3,509	3,464	98.7	99.2
Attending County Schools	1,377	1,371	99.5	100
Attending Private and Residential Schools	862	861	99.8	100
Attending Schools outside district	188	188	100	100
Schools unknown	291	291	100	100
TOTALS	6,227	6,175	99.16	99.46

TABLE IX.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, WEIGHING CENTRES AND ANTE-NATAL CLINICS IN THE UCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

<i>Name of Centre.</i>	<i>When held.</i>
BUXTED.	
Reading Room, Buxted (Weighing Centre only) ...	3rd Tuesday in each month.
CHELWOOD GATE.	
Chelworth, Chelwood Gate ...	4th Thursday in each month.
CROWBOROUGH.	
Drill Hall ...	1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month.
Wesleyan Hall ...	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in each month.
CROWBOROUGH, ST. JOHN'S.	
Women's Institute Hall (Weighing Centre only) ...	3rd Wednesday in each month.
DANEHILL.	
Scouts' Hall, Danehill ...	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in each month.
FAIRWARP AND MARESFIELD.	
Village Hall, Fairwarp ...	1st Wednesday in each month.
FOREST ROW.	
Village Hall ...	1st and 3rd Thursdays in each month.
(Ante Natal) ...	3rd Thursday in each month.
FRAMFIELD.	
Church Hall. ...	2nd Thursday in each month.
FRANT.	
Village Hall ...	2nd and 4th Fridays in each month.
(Ante Natal) ...	4th Friday in each month.
GROOMBRIDGE.	
The Hut ...	4th Monday in each month.
HARTFIELD AND WITHYHAM.	
King's Hall, Withyham ...	1st Friday in each month.
MAYFIELD.	
Congregational Church Hall ...	1st and 3rd Fridays in each month.
NUTLEY.	
Mission Hall ...	4th Friday in each month.
ROTHERFIELD.	
British Legion Hut ...	3rd Friday in each month.
UCKFIELD.	
County Clinic ...	1st Tuesday in each month.
(Ante Natal) ...	3rd Tuesday in each month.
WADHURST.	
The Institute ...	1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday in each month.
(Ante Natal) ...	2nd Tuesday in each month.

Laboratory Facilities.

The arrangements which were made for the examination of specimens taken for the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases, with the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton (telephone number Brighton 23506), continued throughout the year and proved to be very satisfactory.

TABLE IX (contd.)

Medical practitioners send specimens direct to the Laboratory and receive a report by telephone, a written copy of the report being sent to this office.

Specimens may be sent to reach the laboratory any time up to 6 o'clock from Mondays to Fridays and before 12.30 p.m. on Saturdays.

Urgent examinations may be carried out at other times by arrangement with the Director, Doctor Jameson (telephone number Brighton 56960).

Ambulance Services.

The County Council, under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, has the duty to ensure that ambulances are available where necessary to convey persons suffering from illness from places in their area to places in or outside their area.

In East Sussex this is being done mainly by arrangement with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the British Red Cross Society, and other voluntary organizations.

A day and night ambulance service is available and calls are accepted from doctors, nurses, midwives and hospitals in the area. Only in cases of accidents or other sudden emergencies are calls accepted direct from members of the public.

Ambulance stations serving parishes in the Uckfield Rural District are as follows :—

<i>Parishes Served</i>	<i>Ambulance Station</i>	<i>Telephone Number</i>	<i>No. of Ambulances</i>
Buxted (North Part) Crowborough Mayfield Rotherfield Withyham	Caffyns Garage, Beacon Road, Crowborough.	Crowborough 1234 Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At all other times Crowborough 882 or 3344	2
Forest Row Hartfield	Phillips Garage, East Grinstead.	East Grinstead 488	2
Frant Wadhurst	Monson Road Tunbridge Wells.	Tunbridge Wells 2840	3
Buxted (South Part) Danehill Fletching Framfield Isfield Little Horsted Maresfield Uckfield Hadlow Down	Caffyns Garage, Uckfield.	Uckfield 282	1

TABLE X.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SUPERVISION

No. of inspections made under the Housing and Public Health Acts ...	1,847
No. of premises other than houses visited under the Public Health Acts	473
Inspections made of dairies and milk shops	143
Visits to bakehouses	52
„ „ factories (with power 71, without power 13)	84
„ „ outworkers' premises	2
„ „ butchers' shops	17
„ „ slaughterhouse	296
„ „ knackers' yards	4
„ „ fish frying premises	24
„ „ food premises	319
„ „ ice-cream premises	8
„ „ shops (under Section 38, Shops Act, 1950)	43
„ „ hop-pickers' lodgings	12
„ „ licensed premises	73
Visits in connection with tents, vans and sheds	30
„ „ „ „ infectious diseases	81
„ „ „ „ water supplies	205
„ „ „ „ rats and mice destruction	2,853
„ „ „ „ sanitary accommodation at schools	8
Miscellaneous visits	260
Interviews	122
No. of drain tests carried out	134
„ „ water samples taken	76
„ „ milk samples taken	128
„ „ ice-cream samples taken	5
„ „ premises disinfected and disinfested	51
„ „ preliminary notices served	119
„ „ „ „ complied with	76
„ „ statutory notices served	5
„ „ „ „ complied with	6

TABLE XI.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food now require returns to be completed on the basis of a financial year and to avoid unnecessary work figures in this report are in future to be compiled in a similar manner.

The following statistics show inspections and work done by the Rodent Operators between the 1st of January, 1955 and the 31st March, 1956.

					<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>
No. of complaints received ...	...	...	...	...	130	74
No. of premises infested ...	...	...	...	...	94	61
No. of infestations found as a result of routine enquiry					108	34
No. of premises treated by the occupier ...	...	...	...		5	1
No. of dwellings disinfested :						
(a) Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	130	58
(b) Council properties (Sewage disposal works and refuse tips) ...	...	...	...	...	24	—
(c) Business premises (other than food premises) ...					3	—
(d) Food premises ...	...	...	...	...	7	5
(e) Agricultural premises ...	...	...	...	...	13	—
(f) Schools ...	...	...	...	...	1	8
Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	2,853	

TABLE XII.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Eighty-four visits were made to factories during the year ; of these seventy-one were to factories in which mechanical power was used.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES.	NO. ON REGISTER.	INSPEC- TIONS.	NOTICES.	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	43	13	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	119	71	8	-
TOTAL	162	84	10	-

Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.				NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED.
	FOUND.	REMEDIED.	REFERRED.		
			To H.M. INSPECTOR.	By H.M. INSPECTOR.	
Want of cleanliness ...	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	8	8	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	10	-	-	-

TABLE XIII.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water Sampling.

Samples of water were taken each month for bacteriological examination and the following table shows the sources of supply and results of the analyses.

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Crowborough District Water Company ...	3	3	—
South Eastern Gas Board, East Grinstead	12	12	—
Uckfield Rural District Council	23	23	—
Private Supplies	1	1	—
Springs and Wells	36	18	18
TOTALS	75	57	18

In addition to the above samples taken by the Council's officers the under-mentioned suppliers sent regular reports of bacteriological and chemical analyses.

Crowborough District Water Company.

Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

South Eastern Gas Board, East Grinstead.

East Surrey Water Company.

New Water Mains and extensions laid by the Council during 1955.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Yards linear</i>	<i>Total yards linear</i>
Danehill	Extension of 3in. main to serve Sedges Farm ...	190	—
	Extension of main to Perrymans Hill ...	798	988
Fletching	Part of first stage new distribution mains from Weir Wood source of supply	3,880	3,880
Hartfield	Part of first stage new distribution mains from Weir Wood source of supply	413	
	Extension to serve Council's housing estate, Castlefields	100	513
Maresfield	Part of first stage new distribution mains from Weir Wood source of supply	3,012	3,012
Uckfield	Provision of 1in. main at Ringles Cross	152	—
	Extension of 4in. main at Ringles Cross ...	33	185
		TOTAL	8,578

TABLE XIV.

POSITION RELATING TO PIPED WATER SUPPLY AT 31st DECEMBER, 1955

<i>Statutory Supplier</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Connected to main supply during year</i>	<i>Dwellings on main supply</i>	<i>Estimated number of inhabitants in houses on main supply</i>
UCKFIELD R.D.C.	Danehill	32	336	1082
	Fletching	16	80	258
	Framfield	33	461	1,484
	Hartfield	15	528	1,700
	Isfield	6	148	477
	Little Horsted	—	13	42
	Maresfield	24	752	2,421
	Uckfield	18	1,265	4,073
	Withyham	6	*	
	(Blackham)			
CROWBOROUGH DISTRICT WATER COMPANY	Buxted	25	643	2,070
	Crowborough	28	2,310	7,438
	Frant	2	293	943
	Hadlow Down	5	230	741
	Mayfield	19	964	3,104
	Rotherfield	2	823	2,650
	Wadhurst	17	1,167	3,758
	Withyham	22	870	2,801
SOUTH EASTERN GAS BOARD, EAST GRINSTEAD	Forest Row	14	841	2,708
BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS	Frant	—	*	—

* Included in the total for Crowborough District Water Company.

TABLE XV.

FOOD PREMISES

The following table shows the various types of Food premises within the district.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	17
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	42
Cakes and Confectionery	...	...		23
Greengrocers	...	...	...	26
Grocery and General Provisions	...			82
Hotels and Licensed premises			...	99
Restaurants	...	...	...	53
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	8

350

<i>Improvements at Food Premises during 1955.</i>								
Constant hot water provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Kitchens, preparing rooms and food stores cleansed, redecorated or improved	...							12
Sanitary accommodation improved or increased	...	...	...	...	...	...		2
Drainage systems repaired or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...		3
Sinks provided, renewed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Display counters improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14.

Five samples of ice-cream taken during the year were reported by the bacteriologist to be satisfactory.

The following table shows premises which are registered under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Cooked Meat premises	...	...	35
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	7
Ice-cream premises (Storage and sale only)	...	...	189

TABLE XVI.

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year two hundred and ninety-six visits were made to the slaughterhouse at Uckfield. In the following table is a summary of the animals inspected and carcasses condemned during the year.

<i>Carcases inspected and meat Condemned</i>					
<i>Total No. of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sows</i>
	357	168	502	1401	60
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	103	1	11	15	1
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than Tuberculosis	29%	1%	2%	1%	2%
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	1	—	16	—
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis ...	6.2%	1.0%	—	1.0%	—

No carcasses, parts of carcasses or organs were condemned on account of cysticercosis.

The total weight of meat condemned was 1 ton 5 cwt. 3 qrs. 6 lbs. and in addition the following unsound food was voluntarily surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors.

- 193 tins of preserved food ... blown or decomposed.
- 62 boxes of preserved food ... stale or mouldy.
- 3½ stone of fish putrefaction.
- 280¼ lbs. of meat
(other than condemned at
the slaughterhouse) ... decomposed or bone taint.
- 76¾ lbs. gammon and bacon ... decomposed or bone taint.

Unsound food is buried at Council refuse dumps or, where suitable, used for animal food. Meat surrendered at the Slaughterhouse is disposed of to a firm of soap manufacturers.

TABLE XVII.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	460
(b)	Total number of inspections made for the purpose	1,847
2.	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded	4
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	51
4.	Number of dwelling houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	40

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	53
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

1.	<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</i>	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(i)	By owners	2
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
2.	<i>Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—</i>	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(i)	By owners (including compliance with notices served prior to 1st January, 1955).	4
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
3.	<i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</i>	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(c)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
(d)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit following undertakings given after service of Notice of Time and Place—Section 11.	1
(e)	Number of dwelling houses for which undertakings, under Section 11, were given by owners	40

TABLE XVIII.

HOUSES BUILT DURING 1955

During the year sixty-two cottages and twenty-eight flats were built on behalf of the Council and one hundred and twenty houses were completed by private enterprise.

The following table shows the parishes where Council houses were completed.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>† Type of dwelling</i>	<i>No. of families accommodated</i>	<i>Total families accommodated</i>
BUXTED	C	4	4
CROWBOROUGH ...	Flats	8	8
FLETCHING	Flats D	4 2	6
FOREST ROW	Flats C E L	8 7 2 7	24
HADLOW DOWN ...	C D	2 2	4
MAYFIELD	D	1	1
UCKFIELD	Flats C D G L	4 7 2 1 4	18
WADHURST... ..	C D E L	2 2 4 4	12
WITHYHAM	Flats C G L	4 6 2 1	13
	62 cottages, 28 flats	TOTAL	90

† Key to type of dwelling. C and G. 2 bedrooms 4 persons.
D, E and L 3 „ 5 „

Blocks of flats comprise two types :
Ground floor : 1 bedroom, 2 persons.
1st and 2nd floors : 2 bedrooms, 4 persons.

TABLE XIX.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO DWELLING HOUSES

The works of repair and improvement listed below were completed during the year :—

Internal.

Damp floors remedied	...	...	...	...	...	79
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	100
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	104
Walls repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	233
Ceilings repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	199
Ceiling heights increased	...	...	...	...	...	22
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	76
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	83
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	107
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	42
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	38
Flues and fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	...	28
Cooking stoves repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	38
Washing coppers repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food stores repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	42
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	31
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	47
Sink wastes trapped or provided	...	...	...	...	...	22
Baths and wash basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	67
Hot water systems provided	...	...	...	...	...	58
Artificial lighting provided	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fuel stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	25

External.

Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	53
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	51
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	50
Gutters and downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	50
Paving provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	40
Dustbins provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage.

New systems provided	...	...	...	...	...	45
Systems repaired, improved or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	56
W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	...	79
W.C.s repaired, cleansed and flushing apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	...	36
E.C.s and M.P.s converted to W.C.s	...	...	...	...	...	35
E.C.s repaired or improved	...	...	...	...	...	2

Water Supply.

Main supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wells repaired, improved or provided	...	...	...	...	...	1